

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 14869 141001Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01

SY-04 USSS-00 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-01 CCO-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6003

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14869

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT ELAB JA (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJ: LABOR DISPUTES DURING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: (A) TOKYO 14575

(B) TOKYO 14600

(C) TOKYO 14732

1. SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF LABOR CONFIRMS POLITICAL RALLY AND STRIKE PLANS FOR TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC SECTOR PRIOR TO AND DURING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AS REPORTED REFTEL. POSSIBLY THESE WILL INCLUDE STRIKES BY EMPLOYEES OF FOREIGN AIRLINES AT HANEDA AIRPORT DURING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, BUT MANAGEMENT IS CONFIDENT IT WILL BE ABLE TO PROPERLY SERVICE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WITHOUT DELAY. END SUMMARY

2. MINISTRY OF LABOR (MOL) NOVEMBER 13 CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF DETAILS REPORTED REFTELS A AND B. DESPITE LAST MINUTE CALL-OFF OF SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 13-15 STRIKE OVER SAFETY AND WORKING CONDITIONS BY JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAY (JNR) ENGINEERS UNION (DORO), MOL OFFICIALS ARE "ALMOST POSITIVE" THERE WILL BE NATIONWIDE TRANSPORT STRIKES NOVEMBER 19.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 14869 141001Z

3. MOL NOTED THAT DORO HAS CALLED OFF THREE STRIKES IN A ROW, BUT BELIEVES JOINT ACTION WITH JNR EMPLOYEES UNION (KOKURO) WILL COME OFF NOVEMBER 19 AS PART OF FALL STRUGGLE FOR INCREASED BONUSES. TWO JNR UNIONS ARE NOW DISCUSSING STRATEGY, NOTABLY WHETHER TO STAGE HALF OR FULL DAY STRIKE.

4. BOTH MOL AND MASUDA, SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION TOKYO OFFICE, BELIEVE SCHEDULED ALL-DAY STRIKE ACTION BY UNIONS OF PRIVATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FEDERATION (SHITETSUSOREN) MAY BE AVERTED OR CALLED OFF IN EARLY MORNING OF NOVEMBER 19. ON NOVEMBER 13, THE PRIVATE RR MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AGREED TO SUBMIT DISPUTE TO GOVERNMENT MEDIATION, AND MEDIATION HAS SUCCESSFULLY AVERTED SOME STRIKES.

5. UNIONS REPRESENTING COUNTER AND SERVICE EMPLOYEES OF FOREIGN CARRIERS AT HANEDA AIRPORT ARE NEGOTIATING WITH RESPECTIVE MANagements ON SIZE OF YEAR-END BONUS. SOME FOREIGN AIRLINES UNIONS WENT OFF THE JOB FOR ABOUT SIX HOURS NOVEMBER 13 AND MOL SAYS THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WILL ENGAGE IN LIMITED-HOUR STRIKES NOVEMBER 21.

6. PAN AMERICAN OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT PAA, WHICH WILL BE HANDLING THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE, DOES NOT EXPECT ITS UNION TO DISRUPT SERVICE DURING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. BUT EVEN IF ALL EMPLOYEES STRUCK DURING THAT CRITICAL PERIOD, MANAGEMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN HANDLE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT TROUBLE OR DELAY.

7. NORTHWEST SINCE NOVEMBER 1 HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY UNION WALK-OUT OVER THE ISSUE OF ITS CONTRACTING FOR SERVICE OF UNSKILLED LABOR. IT IS OPERATING ON A SLIGHTLY REDUCED SCHEDULE WITH MANAGEMENT AND CONTRACTUAL HELP. (NWA VICE PRES, ORIENT REGION, REGINALD JENKINS, TOLD LABATT NOVEMBER 14 THAT NWA NO LONGER CHARGED WITH ANY RESPONSIBILITIES CONNECTED WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, INSTEAD TWA HANDLING ONE PLANE, PAA THE REST.)
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